

You have to make a lot of decisions nowadays, and very few are easy ones. The answers to these decisions lie within **you**! Not your parents, not your friends —but **YOU**! When given all the facts, you can make good decisions. This pamphlet contains basic, factual information to help you make sound decisions on some of the problems facing teens today.

Let's talk about some of these problems such as teen pregnancy, venereal disease, AIDS, abortion and contraception for teens. Let's find some responsible solutions.

TEEN PREGNANCY

Every year in the United States, 1.2 million teens become pregnant¹. Teen pregnancy has risen steadily despite the easy availability of contraception and abortion². Isn't it ironic that you **do not** need parental consent to be given prescription contraceptives at family planning clinics, yet you **do** need parental consent to be given an aspirin in school!

Here are just a few of the alarming results of teen pregnancy:

- high school dropouts
- welfare recipients
- single parents
- divorces
- abortions
- mentally and physically damaged teens



VENEREAL DISEASE

V.D. is a real problem. In fact, the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, has identified numerous strains of V.D. and has now labeled it a major health problem! In 1986 approximately 20 million people contracted herpes.³

Why is there a V.D. epidemic? Since V.D. is a sexually transmitted disease (S.T.D.), promiscuity has led to the current epidemic. Is AIDS the worst strain of V.D.? Yes, AIDS is the most deadly. There is presently no cure and it is almost always fatal!

¹Center for Disease Control — Atlanta Georgia, United States Department of Health and Human Services, 1987.

²Stan E. Weed, "Curbing Births, Not Pregnancies," *Wall Street Journal*, 14 Oct. 1986.

³Center for Disease Control.